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Application No.: 09/468,469
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PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

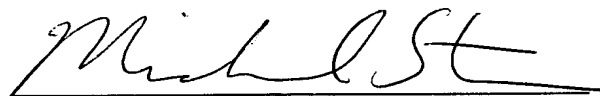
Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1 and 3 – 45 will be pending in the application, as applicants request that claim 2 be canceled without prejudice and that the remaining claims be amended as indicated above.

Applicants' undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Ali for participating in a telephonic interview on January 30, 2006, to discuss the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, first and second paragraphs, 102(e) and 103(a). In sum, during this interview, applicants' attorneys Michael D. Stein and Peter M. Ullman discussed the various rejections under Sections 112 and how they could be overcome by way of amending the claims. With respect to the rejections under Sections 102(e) and 103(a), we discussed several differences between the present invention and the prior art, particularly Oliver '190, and applicants' undersigned attorney agreed to propose a clarifying amendment, which is intended to add certain limitations from dependent claim 2 into independent claim 1.

The examiner is respectfully asked to consider and enter the above amendments, and to issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1 and 3 – 45.

Respectfully submitted,

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